

ILLUSIONS

ISSUES OF THE TV/TS LIFESTYLE

REFERENCE USE ONLY

306
ILL

AN URGE TO PURGE?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO THROW AWAY THAT DRESS

GREAT LEGS!

HOW TO MAKE YOUR
LEGS AN ASSET
-HOSIERY FOR THE TV

A TS VOYAGE

HOW HE BECAME HERSELF

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ILLUSIONS FEATURE GAL

EVENING GLAMOUR



ILLUSIONS CALENDAR CALGARY

Jan 15 Regular Social
Jan 27 Regular Social
Feb 12 Regular Social
Feb 24 Regular Social
Mar 12 Regular Social
Mar 31 Regular Social
Apr 16 Regular Social
Apr 28 Regular Social

EDMONTON

Jan 13 Regular Social
Feb 10 Regular Social
Mar 10 Regular Social
Apr 14 Regular Social

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Jan 23 ISCCA Court Show, Boystown
Jan 30 ISCCA Court Show, BBX
Feb 20 ISCCA Court Show, BBX
Feb 27 ISCCA Court Show, Boystown
Mar 20 ISCCA Court Show, BBX
Mar 27 ISCCA "Kick-off to
Campaign '94", First Official
Candidates Show For Empress
& Emperor XVIII, Boystown

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OUR NEXT ISSUE'S SUBMISSIONS
NEED TO BE IN BEFORE.....
FEBRUARY 15!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Don't miss out!!

AND NOW..

A WORD FROM YOUR EDITORS



Happy New Year!

1993 is gone but certainly not forgotten; how could one forget the GOOD TIMES and FRIENDSHIPS we enjoyed through and because of our involvement in "ILLUSIONS".

We would like to CONGRATULATE the members that got involved in our "FOOD BANK" and "GIFT" program, this was our best drive to date! The toys went to "The Woman's Shelter" and we're sure went a long way to making Christmas brighter for some people in very trying circumstances! The food went to the "Interfaith Food Bank" between Christmas and New Years to help re-stock their depleted reserves and in both cases were greatly appreciated.

On the subject of donations; our cheque to "Beswick House" for bedding, was needed and greatly appreciated. Our continuing donations to programs within the only community that shows us any form of acceptance, is in our view, a very small way of showing "THANKS" for the opportunity to enjoy our alter egos in other social arenas other than "Illusion" functions.

We will continue our "Charity" programs through out this upcoming year and with your support we will be even more successful!

In Noisemakers and New Hose
Barbie and Christine

Illusions

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Editorial Staff

Barbie, Christine, Lisa

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FANTASTIC VOYAGE



Condensed from an article in "Allure" Magazine August '93 written by Joan Kron

What is it like to live as a woman after a sex change? For Rachel Harlow, it has been a struggle and a dream come true.

Celebrity decorator Mario Buatta was at a loss for words recently at the press party for the rerelease of *The Queen*, a 1968 documentary about a drag beauty contest. HE was making chitchat with Rachel Billebault, a Philadelphia matron. What was her connection to the film? Buatta wanted to know. Was she related to the producer?

"I was the star of the film," replied Mrs. Billebault. "I was the queen."

"But the queen is a boy," said Buatta, perplexed.

"I used to be a boy," she said.

There were 31 contestants--all male--in the 1967 "Miss All-American Camp Beauty Pageant," at which *The Queen* was filmed. But, as Rachel Billebault likes to say, "I'm the only Jack in the film that became a Jill."

On June 6, 1971, in Yonkers, New York, 24-year-old Richard Finocchio, Philadelphia's notorious drag queen "Harlow" (the queen of *The Queen*) had a sex-change operation and legally changed his name to Rachel Harlow.

"Most people are dealt five cards when they're born," she says. "I showed you could turn in four cards and get four new ones back. Of course," she laughs, "the operation is not a cure-all. With it comes yeast infections. This I never bargained for."

There have been thousands of male-to-female sex-change operations performed worldwide

since 1922, but only a few transsexuals have recognizable names: Christine Jorgensen, Jan (formerly James) Morris, Renee Richards (formerly Richard Raskin), and Rachel Harlow. Although Rachel is less well known, she is arguably the most credible--physically.

Rachel's remarkable beauty insulated her somewhat from being regarded as a freak--a word she can barely utter. "People can be kinder when you don't shock their sensibility," she says with hard-earned insight.

Rachel's face, at 46, is still a marvel--if anything, it's softer and prettier than in her heyday. Her grooming and makeup are as meticulous as ever. But she has found that her body cannot be frozen in time. Instead of embodying fashion's androgynous look, as she used to, she is now Rubenesque and womanly.

The youngest of three siblings, Richard always felt like a misfit. It wasn't that he felt trapped in a male body; he felt trapped in the male role. "What drives us is not what's between our legs," says Rachel. "It's our mind. And I didn't feel right in my head. When I picked out a toy I went for the tea set, not the truck or the baseball bat. My father wanted to buy me a doctor's kit. I wanted a nurses kit." But what can you do? "Do you go to your mother and say, 'I don't want to be a boy?'" asks Rachel. "So I became reclusive, spending time in my room

doing ceramics, fashion illustrations. Sneaking into my mother's clothes."

Puberty was one continuous crisis. "MY first day in junior high," recalls Rachel, "I was told I had to take gym. In the locker room I started to cry. I ran out. I couldn't get undressed in front of those boys." repressing his problem caused Richard to develop bleeding ulcers. During treatment, a severe hormone imbalance was discovered. "It made it easier for my parents to accept me," says Rachel. (It also may explain why Richard had little body hair. "I never shaved," says Rachel, who is still asked, "Where is your beard?")

In the doctor's office one day, Richard happened on a magazine article about Christine Jorgensen, "The Ex-G.I. Goes Abroad and Comes Back a Broad." I took the magazine and hid it in my bedroom. It was no longer me against the world; it was me and another person. It was like coming out of a dark tunnel. There was a term that described me. At least I knew what I was and that there was a solution."

As he matured, he flaunted his femininity, infuriating his father. "Twiggy was the icon of that time," says Rachel. "Flat-chested. Beautiful. Thin. No hips. Boyish. I was tailor-made. I didn't have to do much to be in."

A cousin, Billy Sirolli, a hairdresser, sympathized. On Halloween in 1965, when Richard was 18, Billy ushered him into the world of drag. "I never even knew it existed," says Rachel. Billy dolled Richard up like Carroll Baker in *Harlow*, the film of the moment--black satin bias-cut dress

with spaghetti straps, white fox stole, and platinum wig. "It was the first time I wore heels, yet I felt I had worn them all my life," says Rachel, quoting from the memoirs she is writing. "As I stood there in that outfit, looking in the mirror, for the first time I felt at peace. It was the beginning of a new life."

"Is it a boy?" asked the official.

"Of course he's a boy," said Billy.

"Well, OK. What's her name?"



"Her name is ...Harlow."

There were 205 contestants. Harlow was number 114. "I'll never forget the number," says Rachel. "When they called my number, Billy walked me out to the middle of the floor. I stood there frozen, not knowing what to do." Then I started to walk the runway, and the crowd began chanting: "We want Harlow! We want Harlow!" They were banging their chairs on the floor. Stamping their feet. "We want Harlow!" says Rachel, glowing like a Follies girl remembering being discovered by Ziegfeld.

In fact, the Ziegfeld of drag, Jack Doroshow (a.k.a. "Flawless

Sabrina"), was in the audience that night. "Jack came up to me," recalls Rachel, "and said, 'My dear, I've been all around the world, seen every queen, and there's no equal to you.'" Harlow began entering Doroshow's local contests. "Every contest I entered, I won."

Two years (and ten crowns) later, a panel of judges (pop aristocrats including Andy Worhol) crowned "Miss Harlow" queen of Doroshow's Nationals Academy extravaganza, the Miss All-American Camp Beauty Pageant at Manhattan's Town Hall.

When she went to the Cannes Film Festival in 1968 to promote *The Queen*, Harlow was the starlet du jour. Sharon Tate asked her to dance. ("I said, 'Who'll lead?'" recalls Rachel. "Sharon said, 'Does it really matter?'" The film struck a cultural chord. In a recent piece in *Interview*, David Bowie said that the beautiful boy in *The Queen* (Harlow) was partly responsible for his interest in androgyny and bisexuality. Soon Hollywood was calling. Harlow auditioned for *Myra Breckinridge*. Had a bit part in *A Safe Place*, the Henry Jaglom movie starring Orson Welles. Inspired a character in a novel by Rona Jaffe. Went out with Warren Beatty.

The only one who didn't want Harlow was Uncle Sam. Her trip to the draft board was "a horror," says Rachel. I handed the man my draft card. He said with disgust, 'Oh, no, you're kidding,' wanting me to check the box that said I was homosexual. I refused." Harlow was rejected.

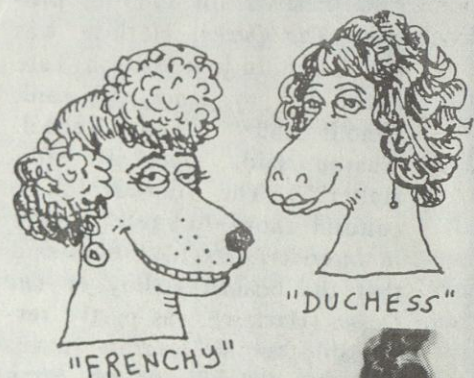
The question of Harlow's sexuality obsessed people--and still does.

(cont'd on page 25)

Sasquatch Sisters *****

MEMORIES.....I can remember many times sitting around a table with Ryan and Terry and laughing over the silliest of things. They had an incredible way of laughing at life. Their many modes of dress kept us wondering...How big is their closet? They dressed in everything from nuns to cows to realtors. Sister Precious had marvellous bone structure and Industrial Strength was known for her mop hair, cone tits and brillo pad dress or for his interpretation of Carmen Miranda with the plastic fruit on his head! We were very lucky to have spent some time with both of these fascinating and creative people. The Ball would not of been the same with out the help that these two put in for the Illusions gals. They showed each of us how to be confident and supportive and to enjoy ourselves. They saw the best in each and every one of us and were here for us as we were growing in the community. Ryan and Terry both passed away in December and family and friends will miss them both for a long time to come. They say the gods look down and smile on us....that's probably because Ryan and Terry are up there entertaining somewhere! God Bless! Barbie.

Ryan and Terry In Memoriam



"DUCHESS"



"CONTESSA"



"PIXANNE"

VIEWPOINT WHAT'S ON OUR MIND

A Vote For Crossdressing

Please don't think that what I'm about to express is a political message or a scorn of your past voting record.

As crossdressers we are vulnerable to a society who can see us as a threat to normalcy, much as homosexuals are perceived, and thus we are grouped together. Some crossdressers may not appreciate being pegged as gay associated but we ladies owe a lot to the pink revolution.

The gains made by homosexuals in the past two decades have brought them from dark closets to active roles in society. Political leaders like Sven Robinson and entertainers like Sandra Bernhard can practice their careers and express themselves without fear of prosecution. Becoming gay associated is now sheik. Tom Hanks plays a gay lawyer in the film, Philadelphia, and how common it is to see people wearing the Aids red ribbon.

As gays have made strides, we have been along for the ride. Crossdressers are allowed to frequent gay bars and participate in gay community events, allowing us the chance to 'get out' and be accepted. It can only get better as they grow stronger, their lifestyle and activities are becoming just another part of society and we too can be thought of as just regular people. We can't let the gays do it for us alone though, we have to back them.

I admit It isn't easy for us crossdressers to take the 'great leap forward' into fighting for rights. Many have family and friends who don't know of our crossdressing and that keeps us from speaking our desires to them and the public. It's easy to speak of our 'liberation' at Illusions but it is much harder to carry a banner and protest.

What we can do at least in promoting gay/crossdresser rights is be politically aware of the forces that guide our communities and country. Many speak of old-fashioned values and a revoking of special rights for interest groups, these ideas can only

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erase the hard fought gains made for civil and gay rights, which affect you!

You can work as an unseen supporter and of course you have the

vote, make the choices that help both you and your sisters.

Princess Lisa

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reporter



Circa 1700 Edward Hyde, Lord Cornbury, first governor of Colonial New York, dressed to represent his cousin, Queen Anne.

1989 Barry Humphries as Dame Edna, the campy London talk-show hostess.



1890 Ristori as Queen Victoria. He was known as a great beauty, a gymnast, a violinist, and a fabulous dancer.



1901 After taking lessons from Lillian Russell, Julian Eltinge found fame as a femme onstage and in film.

1929 The Philadelphia Inquirer suggested this costume for the all-male, working-class Mummies' parade.

TIMELINE:

Boys Will Be Girls

By Jeffrey Slonim

Guys have been dressing up as dolls for longer than most men would care to admit. Yes, *Tootsie* is part of an ancient tradition—in Greek tragedy, female roles were played by men. Offstage, drag queens also have a history. The Abbé de Choisy, a famous cross-dresser of the 1600s, was accepted in society as a lady. Chevalier d'Eon, a diplomat in the 1700s, visited the Russian court in drag. And because Ernest Hemingway's mother really wanted girls, she dressed Mr. Macho like his sister. Female impersonators have always had an uncanny knack for making outrageous fashion look terrific. These days, designers such as Todd Oldham and Thierry Mugler even use men in drag as gender-bending runway models.

1951 Jeanette backstage at a Berlin drag show. Artfully placed paper pasties complement his print loincloth.

1930 Football star Lionel ("Mike") Ames, dressed for *The Varsity Vamp*.



1965 Mario Montez, star of Andy Warhol's *Loves of Mario Montez*. Jackie Curtis, Candy Darling, and Holly Woodlawn followed in his superstar footsteps.

1970 Ricky Renee on the London stage in *Birds of a Feather* (later *La Cage aux Folles*), when the Las Vegas look was very big.



1992 Mathu and Zaldi, model-like transvestites for the 90s, in platforms and peekaboo bodysuits.



VOICES FROM THE PAST

by Christine

This will be the last column of the series and this time I'll be drawing on an article from our newsletter Vol. 2, Issue 6, Nov/Dec.'92 titled

HAIR TODAY..... GONE TOMORROW.....

Was the first time you shaved your legs anything like mine?

by Veronica Anderson

For a young beginning cross-dresser, probably the first really definite step we take is to shave our legs. We can dress up, make our first crude attempt at makeup, and experience feelings that are new and tremendously exciting but as we progress, our first sincere commitment to the "Life" is to turn those hairy old legs of ours into smooth, silky columns of femininity just waiting for the soft caress of the sheerest stockings we can find. Sound familiar? Of course it does!

The first time I shaved my legs, and underarms, was at the age of twenty. I was pretty much in the same boat, enamoured with the thought of dressing and looking like a woman, wanting to exercise that feminine half of me which was just screaming to come out!

Those were the days, all innocence and nervous energy. My first attempt at denuding was a real "Follicle Follies". Of course, at twenty, I had been shaving my face for several years and I was accustomed to that manly task. Confident and cocky that I had all the experience—I needed to turn my legs as

smooth as porcelain, I reached for the dainty little lady shaver I'd just bought at the drugstore and stepped into the tub. Well!! Do you by any chance remember the shower scene from "Psycho?" Hitchcock had nothing on me girls! I promptly looked like I'd gone a few rounds with Freddie Krueger from "Nightmare on Elm Street!" You know where I got it... around the ankle bone, along the shin, behind the knee. Ouch! This is definitely a learned skill. And my underarms! Honestly! Later while applying deodorant, I considered renaming Ice Blue Secret to Red Hot Needles!

To add insult to injury, I hadn't done a terribly good job of removing hair. Removing Skin? Well, have you ever seen a picture of a forest that has just been worked over by a logging company? Stumps and stubble everywhere! So now I was properly sliced and diced, but I still had a 5 o'clock shadow on my legs. I could shave my face without a nick, smooth as a baby's bottom, but my legs were a war zone.

So what's next? What more could I possibly do to torture my poor unfortunate gams? That's right. You've got it! A depilatory! I'm a gullible consumer, just like the rest of you. I had visions of the "TV" commercials in my head, where my long luscious legs are being gently rinsed free of the comforting lather, which effortlessly gobbles every hint of hair shaft, leaving glistening, million dollar limbs completely free from anything even resem-

bling stubble. Dream on girls! You can bet your best bloomers that when I innocently spread the rich creamy concoction over my legs it was not "Neat" feeling, considering what I'd just done with the razor. Oh well live and learn.

Now, ten years later, I can shave my legs slick and slippery in the blink of a well made up eye, and the feel of my sheer stocking against them is one of the real treats of femininity, but back then, the effort was gigantic and the results catastrophic! I think I would have done better with a weed eater! Certainly the effort of removing the vestige of masculinity was less than comfy. I can now look back on it with humour now, but the real shocker hit me just about the same time the stinging stopped. I suddenly realized how severely I had just compromised my masculine self in favour of my feminine self. Honestly! My God, what about wearing shorts? What about the beach? What about the locker room? My God, what about my girlfriend? What had I done? Weird and mentally deficient excuses came to mind, like "Oh, My legs? Well, you see I have a rare disease which makes my body hair fall out." Or how about, "Yes, I shave my legs, I'm a competitive swimmer, don't you know." Have you heard of anything so pathetic? Oh well, needless to say, I was never compromised. My girlfriend, now my wife, not only understood but got a kick out of it. The guys in the locker room usually have their own little secrets, and at the beach who gives a damn! The silly excuses were just that, excuses.

For those who have been through a like situation, my words are hopefully a humorous hint towards the past.

BEAUTY

Makeup brushes: Does cost really matter?

ALMOST EVERY COSMETICS company and many makeup artists offer a line of makeup brushes. Prices range from a few dollars to more than \$30.

\$6 HAIRBRUSH

- tin and nickel ferrule



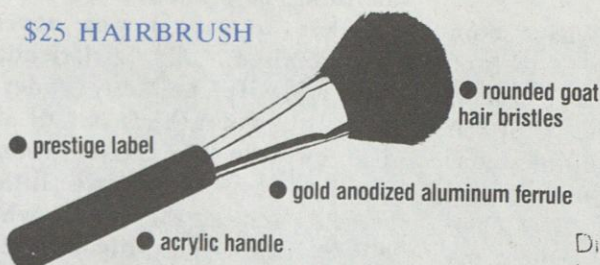
- short plastic handle

Natural versus synthetic

This is the important factor for most experts. Natural hairs have cuticles that "grab" the blush and deposit it more evenly. They range from soft, pricey squirrel and sable to pony, goat and badger hair. Cheaper synthetic bristles (usually nylon) have no cuticles to hold the powder and are stiffer, making for a streakier application.

\$25 HAIRBRUSH

- prestige label



- rounded goat hair bristles

- gold anodized aluminum ferrule

- acrylic handle

The cost of a name

You'll pay more for prestige names. You'll get better quality control (which means fewer shedding hairs) and usually superior materials—beechwood instead of plastic and natural, hand-shaped bristles instead of synthetic.



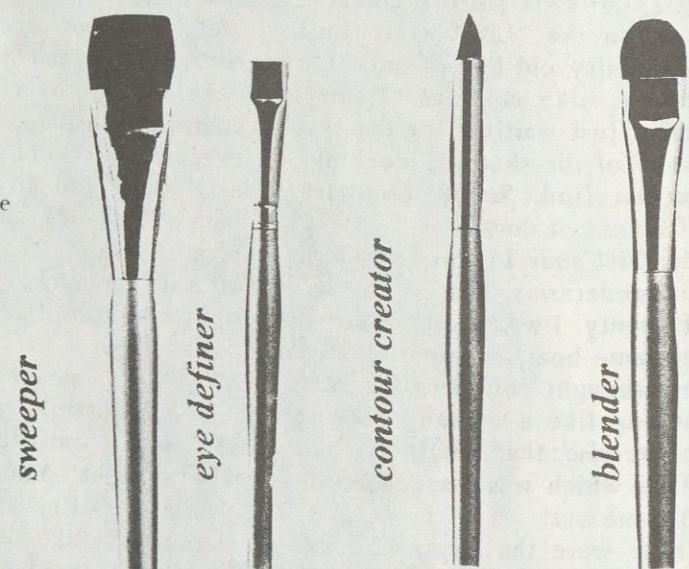
\$37 HAIRBRUSH

- rounded goat hair bristles
- solid nickel ferrule
- wooden handle



Human- versus machine-made

Pricier brushes are shaped by hand, giving them a soft, rounded contour that allows a more natural application. Machine-made ones tend to have a straight blunt edge that gives color a flat appearance.



sweeper

eye definer

contour creator

blender

Dip this on into neutral hue and swoop from inner lid to outer brow—leaves subtle wash of colour.

Turns any eye shadow into long-lasting liner—stick stiff edge in powder, then press along upper lash line.

Fits perfectly into lid crease! Try with dark shade to give eyes depth.

Essential for smoothing away shadow demarcation lines and softening harsh liner.

[FASHION WORKSHOP]

Such Pretty Legs: Show off those gam's

For the crossdresser, alot is required in portraying the female form. We have resort to padding, tucking and covering just to look how we feel. We do have one asset though that is almost like a woman's and an envy to many of them: Our legs. To help show of them great legs, there is hosiery, and now more than ever you can have fun with it. Hosiery has been around for hundreds of years but it wasn't until this century that it has evolved. In the 20's came silk stockings in fleshy pink tone, they were very popular but scarce in W.W.II due to a need for silk as parachute material. Necessity brings invention and thus nylon was born, of course invention would continue with women's demand for an alternative to clumsy garter belts and, panties and hose became one. Pantyhose generally came in beige, taupe or white, they could feel coarse, bind at the band and sag at the ankles. Of course they ran, still an unresolved issue. Toady's hose is made of nylon microfibre (Spandex or Lycra), one-sixtieth the thickness of human hair so it feels like velvet. Gone are bags and sags and a return of tummy/bottom control that disappeared with the girdle in the 60's.

Hosiery now is colourful and patterned. You can buy hose that will compliment any outfit, no matter how outrageous. Soft options are inspired by Victorian florals and lace. Bolds by ribbing, fishnets, and polka-dots. You like hot-pink or maybe teal, you'll find it in hose.

the great garter belt debate

In favor of pantyhose

- They create a smooth, continuous line
- There are no buckles snaps or clips
- You feel secure in any skirt length
- They go on sale at regular intervals
- They come in a wide variety of styles
- You can wear them without underwear

In favor of garter belts and stockings

- They're sexy
- You can wear them without underwear
- One stocking runs and you've still got another
- It's super easy to go to the bathroom (sans panties)

Hose knows-how

*Not every girl of Illusions is able to shave her legs. Wearing today's Opaques, you can have a shear look and hide the hairs too. Doubling or tripling regular hose will work (an old trick used by drag queens and actors).

*Show off:

Darker shades in opaque hose and vertical patterns slim the leg. To create a fuller look try whites and light shades.

*Black goes well with so many things but don't wear black hose with pale sandals or shoes. Do try black with primary colour or bright dresses.

*Pale Pinks:

Great for a gorgeous evening look. Try them with darks and pastels.

*Adaptable Neutrals:

Lend themselves well to browns, tans, grey and taupe. Hence their own shade.

*To pick a colour:

If your outfit is patterned, match one of it's tones, if your skirt and shoes match wear the same shade; the most foolproof method is to match the colour of your hose to your shoes.

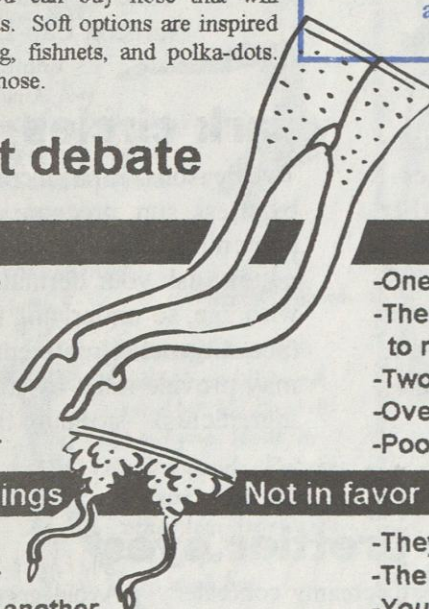
*The Heavier the Hose the more casual the look: Shears and ultra shears suit evening looks, sheers and opaques are great for business: Heavy tights, socks and leggings are generally for off hours.

Not in favor of pantyhose

- One run and the pair is ruined
- There's absolutely no sensual way to remove them
- Two-tone control tops are ugly
- Oversized pairs give elephant ankles
- Poor access to go to the bathroom

Not in favor of garter belts and stockings

- They're expensive
- The clips and snaps are lumpy
- You can't wear them with short skirts
- Panties, 'under or over' dilemma



Real solutions for sagging, bagging, wrinkling, and other distressing (eye) sights

crow's-feet

Inevitable result of laughing, smiling, sleeping, squinting. Prevention: Regular application of eye cream, to preserve elasticity (also temporarily swells skin, so lines are less obvious). Wearing sunscreen and sunglasses helps too. Permanent solution is possible with Retin-A or alpha-hydroxy-acid therapy, though you'll have to keep it up forever to maintain results. In severe cases, mild chemical peels, collagen injections, and/or plastic-surgery procedure known as brow lift (lifting face from scalp to eliminate crevices) does the job.

puffiness

Too much salt, food, liquor, as well as lack of sleep, all contribute. Cucumber slices and moistened chamomile tea bags are effective low-tech remedies—have diuretic effect. Place either over eyes, and lie flat for ten minutes. Slanting head of bed upward (prop with phone books or two-by-fours) lets fluid drain toward toes instead of accumulating in face!

makeup rules for prettier eyes

- Camouflage circles and/or bags with creamy concealer just a tad lighter than skin tone. (Most women use really pale, almost white shade, which *highlights* instead of *hides*.) Smooth on with fingertips (don't pull), then cover with thin coat of regular foundation, suggests New York City makeup artist Mary Margaret Carter.



bags

Due to either excess fatty tissue you've inherited or aging (gravity causes skin to sag as you get older). Surgical remedy is a simple in-office technique called blepharoplasty—matter is removed via incision inside lower lid, leaving no visible scars, explains New York City-based plastic surgeon Cap Lesesne.

dark circles

Two reasons. First, increased melanin production—caused by stress, sun, pregnancy—makes skin deepen in color. Try lightening with a prescription bleaching lotion (hydroquinone)—ask your dermatologist. Second, dermis tends to thin with age, so underlying veins are likely to peek through surface. Cosmetic treatment creams, sold at department stores, may provide relief by stimulating circulation (often via natural ingredients)—stopping blood from “pooling” beneath eyes.

- Avoid gray and black shades if circles are a problem—make eyes appear sunken. Instead, stick with mauves and brown-based neutrals.
- Never powder over eye area—gets cakey.
- If lids are dry or wrinkly, stay away from frosted and shimmer shadows.

beauty bar

Eyes are the first place to show signs of aging—often as early as age twenty!

Why is that?

Here's

why—and how to fix!

[health & fitness]

Gender and the flu

FLU REALLY SEPARATES THE MEN... FROM THE WOMEN. When 405 men and women were asked who handles the flu better, 6 percent of women said men handle the bug better; 74 percent of women said women are best at handling the vicious virus; 25 percent of men said women handle it better than they do; but 58 percent of the men (the sore losers) insisted that sex made no difference. If women handle the bug better, maybe it's because they are more likely (45 percent) to view the flu as a potentially serious illness, while men think of it as a very bad cold. Women are also more likely to get a flu shot on an annual basis if an especially severe season is predicted. This year's flu forecast: severe.

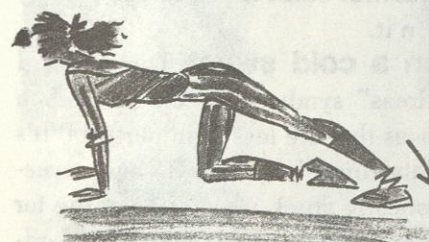
All-Natural Pillows

here's a new accessory that goes perfectly with juice fasting and weekend at the ashram: pillows filled with buckwheat hulls instead of down. Used in Japan for centuries, buckwheat-hull pillows are now turning up in all the right 90s emporiums, including Zona in New York City and Fred Segal in Santa Monica. Not only do they save geese from getting plucked and landfills from overflowing with foam, but they're also good for your neck and head.

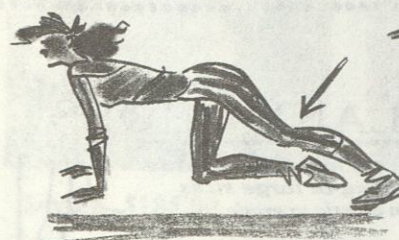
BODY BASIC:

Calf stretch

A good muscle lengthener.



1 Start with left leg extended behind you on the floor, toes tucked under. Push back, as if trying to push left heel to floor. Hold for 30 seconds. This works the upper calf.



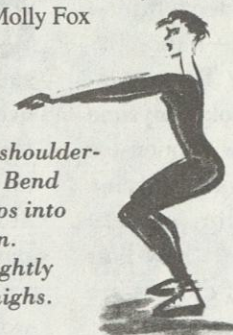
2 Drop left knee toward floor, continuing to push weight into heel. Hold. This works the lower calf. Repeat on opposite side.

BODY BASIC:

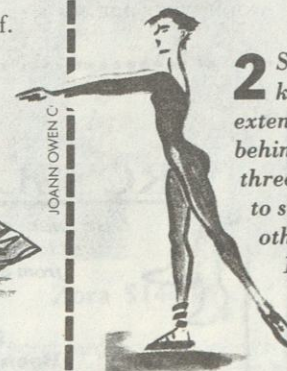
total leg shaper

THIS MOVE IS FROM THE book *Killer Butt and Thighs* (the name says it all!), published by Molly Fox Studios, NYC.

1 Stand with feet parallel and shoulder-width apart. Bend knees and hips into squat position. Rest hands lightly on front of thighs.



2 Straighten right knee and lift and extend left leg directly behind you. Hold for three seconds. Return to start. Repeat on other leg. Start with 12 reps on each leg.



BODY BASIC:

Tricep trimmer

Move to tone and shape the back of the upper arm.

1 Stand with feet hip-width apart. Holding a light weight (1 to 3 pounds) in right hand, extend right arm overhead, pressing to ear. Support right elbow with left hand, so right elbow goes back as far as possible.



2 With right hand over head and elbow straight, slowly lower weight behind you. Return to start with 10 repetitions, build to 25. Switch arms and repeat with opposite side.



Information from Los Angeles-based personal trainer Julie Pichus.

10 BIG EVENING MISTAKES

- 1 Wearing daytime accessories with evening clothes** Some daytime items *can* make the transition to dress-up: black suede pumps, for instance, or a soft black wrap. But others can't, like a brown workaday watch, plain leather shoes or a tortoise-shell headband. Before you leave the house, do a spot check: Are your shoes, jewelry, bag and hair accessories as special as your clothes?
- 2 Piling on the glitz** We all know the look: dramatic earrings *and* a necklace *and* bracelets. Or a beaded top—with a long gold skirt and rhinestone earrings. The best rule: One dramatic element—a glittery choker or a silver top or swirly skirt—is enough.
- 3 Assuming that barer is dressier** It isn't always: A cotton-knit tank dress will never be dressy no matter how sexy its scoop neck.
- 4 Being careless about lingerie** The most common gaffes: bras that show through (like a black bra beneath a cream top), bumpy bras (wear a seamless one under knits) and visible panty lines (if you're wearing something tight, choose sleek briefs, control-top pantyhose or—if it's your style—a thong).
- 5 Being careless about hosiery** Three mistakes that can ruin an evening look: daytime opaques rather than sheers, reinforced toes with open-toe shoes, control-top stockings or control shorts showing beneath the hem of a mini. Check the mirror. Twice.
- 6 Not looking at the big picture:** how hair and makeup complement clothes. If clothes are dramatic, hair should be less so, and vice versa.

- 7 Overdressing** The best way to avoid showing up in taffeta when everyone else is in knits? Ask (your host, a restaurant's maître d', a colleague) about an event's dress code in advance. If the answer is vague, the safest dressy clothes are dark rather than metallic; tailored rather than baring.
- 8 Underdressing:** being the one tweed suit in a sea of black satin. The solution, again, is to ask in advance. If you don't get a good answer, choose clothes in dark hues (pastels look more casual), not-just-for-day fabrics (wool crepe, rather than wool flannel or tweed). Slip a pair of dressy earrings into your purse, just in case.
- 9 Wearing anything that's painful** Common offenders: shoes that pinch, control-top stockings with Schwarzenegger muscle, strapless bras that dig into your bust, dresses you can't breathe in, too-tight earrings. Don't sacrifice comfort for fashion; no one will see your beautiful outfit if you're too uncomfortable to stand up in it.
- 10 Shopping in a cold sweat** The "God, I need a new dress" syndrome often leaves you saddled with purchases that are less than perfect ("It's overpriced and unflattering—but I have to have something"). If you're honestly stuck without anything for an event, it's better to buy new accessories or affordable separates (say, a sheer top from the lingerie department) than whole ensembles. And unless it's your wedding, don't pay major money for something you won't wear again.

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Illusions Magazine

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January - February 1994

Shopping for a Wig

Q.: What kind of hair is best—synthetic or real?

Bourhis: Deluxe wigs are made of human hair. European hair is the finest. The drawback: A real-hair wig needs to be set or styled after each washing. A good-quality synthetic wig, cut well, can look almost as good and will "remember" its style after washing. The drawback: It's heavier.

Q.: Whose human hair?

Bourhis: Women who grow their hair for a living.

Q.: How much should a good wig cost?

Bourhis: You can't get a quality wig for less than \$100. A custom-made wig of human hair can run as high as \$5,000. Our best-seller,

a synthetic short-shag cut, is \$159. By law, wigs are not returnable, so choose carefully.

Q.: What are three-quarter and demi-wigs?

Garrison: They are partial wigs that blend with one's own hair. Good for bad hair days.

Q.: How often should a wig be washed?

Bourhis: Every 10 to 15 wearings, in cold water with baby shampoo.

Q.: How long will a wig last?

Bourhis: Worn every day, a synthetic wig will last 3 months; human hair, 8 to 12 months.

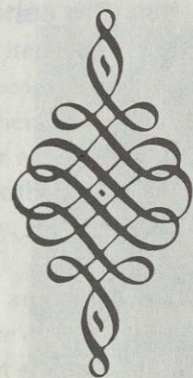
Q.: What are the best wig brands?

Bourhis: René of Paris and Jacquelyn International are excellent ones.

Tinseltown TV with Sarah N. Dippity

What's new in the glam world of crossdressing

This area has been left intentionally blank due to privacy considerations.



"Could you make me a woman?" Brother Frank, joyed to tears, "Honey I'm so happy!" He then hugs him. And so begins the transformation of Mrs. Doubtfire. Robin Williams stars in this 90's version of Tootsie, where a man learns more about himself and others of him, by being a woman. At first I was cynical about this film, I expected the usual conventions of a man learning what it's like to be a woman. Dustin Hoffman tripped in his high heels and avoided advances from fresh men, while Williams' support hose fell and he avoided advances from fresh men. What makes this film unique though, and so very popular with audiences is Robin Williams humor, it's hard to hold him back. Upon someone learning of his secret, they ask him if he likes dressing as an old lady, "No, I'm not into dressing this way, and I don't hang out in granny bars either!"

I wish I had a brother like Williams had in the film. Frank and his lover are both makeup artists who try many combinations in making Williams a woman, note the Barbara Streisand look, it's hilarious. They finally come up with the old lady look which requires a generous amount of foam and latex. The foam body suit has the contours of a portly female frame and unzips for easy removal from the back; perhaps not what an Illusions girl would strive to wear and look like, but in the film the shape was very convincing. Makeup was abandoned for a latex mask which nicely fitted over Williams face. What a great idea, no more shaving, beard cover or powdering. I must criticize though, for the seams of the mask were always well hidden regardless of the continual removal and replacement of it in some scenes, only in movies are things that easy.

The voice, oh, the voice, Robin Williams femme voice is amazing he has such talent. He not only puts on the soft Scottish accent but also a half dozen others. We need him to come to our meeting and teach us. What works best for him and others apparently is the masking of male voice with accent or speech impediment, hence the Scottish accent for Mrs. Doubtfire and the southern drawl of Hoffman's Tootsie. Give it a try girls, but you may have to back off on the Scottish in public untill Backfire is out of the theaters. Do see this film, take your loved ones, it teaches alot about love and sacrifice and although the ending is typical Hollywood it may not be what you expect.

On the 'tube' there has been quite an assortment of crossdressing lately. Our lovely 6 foot diva, Ru Paul was on NBC's Dateline before New Year's, she looked great, as her career keeps growing. On the talk shows, Maury Povich brought on a couple who lived as the other for a week: He as she, etc. Not a bad show, I find Povich asks good questions and tends not to torque the issue. The couple had entered a Lady's Home Journal contest to do this and they hadn't done crossdressing before. Both liked the experience, he liked shopping and being treated well and she had a laugh drinking with the boys and seeing strippers. The bad boy of the talk show hosts is Geraldo, he had on transsexuals who had recently gone through the change at the Faber Clinic in Colorado. Geraldo took the camera into the operating room and although we see little of the operation, he called it "the most bizarre thing" he has seen in all his years of journalism. When he talks to transsexuals or crossdressers he asks his questions like it makes his macho ego uncomfortable, he shudders and shakes his head often. What this guy needs to have done to him is be tied down and dressed in a pink frock, at least Donohue wore a dress willingly.

Sarah's drag awards this issue are: The worst drag and drag that makes people sick-Those two geeks off Full House, who dressed up to go to a female only party, no laughs, plenty of embarrassment. Best drag for look and mannerisms-Herman from Herman's Head, as he fools a girlfriend that he is another girl who just wants to know what she thinks of Herman.

Illusions is forming a Social Committee, besides having regular socials we hope to have activities like Las Vegas Night, dance lessons, movie nights and whatever else that can come to your mind, well almost. Call Barb at the club if your interested and the we'll meet in the near future.

Keep your seams straight, Sarah



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Bloomers: What's Behind The Name



In a day and age when women were encased in tight corsets and layers of petticoats, Amelia Jenks Bloomer had always been a rebel. But on a cold winter day in 1851 she did something so bold that even the most forgiving would find it hard to overlook - 32-year old Amelia was parading around in a most indecent and outrageous outfitPANTS!

Actually the trousers of the time were long, flowing Turkish style pantaloons that could hardly be considered improper. The "bloomers" were such a source of ridicule that fashion and Amelia were never the same again. Amelia helped popularize the style by advertising it in her own magazine, "The Lily" (the 1st women's magazine in America. Readers, tired of their long bulky dresses adored the comfortable new style.

Amelia fought for the right to wear the new style for awhile and then turned her efforts to her family and the fight for womens rights and to a better education.

The fight for equality still goes on, but every time you put on a pair of jeans, you should all remember Amelia, the Bloomer Girl started it all!



Enigma

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Barbie Liberation Organization strikes — now G.I. Joe is talking about shopping

When seven-year-old Zachariah Zelin of San Diego, Calif. ripped open his Christmas present, he squealed with delight. It was the talking G.I. Joe doll he wanted. The problem was, Joe talked like Barbie. Dressed in army fatigues, with a submachine-gun and hand grenades at his side, Joe says things like: "Want to go shopping?" The Barbie Liberation Organization, a group of about 50 concerned parents, feminists and other activists, claimed responsibility. The BLO says it switched the voice boxes on 300 G.I. Joe and Barbie dolls in United States, Canada, France and England. Altered Barbies have deep voices and say, "Dead men tell no lies." The group contends Barbie teaches passivity in girls and G.I. Joe influences boys to act violently.

Fashion that fights cancer

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As part of GLAMOUR and HANES' Hand in Hand Program. This program is the first ongoing breast education geared for women ages 18-39. 30 Million Hanes hosiery packages will

contain photos of breast self-examination and tips of maintaining good health.

Avon has interpreted the pink ribbon symbolizing breast cancer awareness as a gold-tone and enamel pin. All profits from the \$2 pin will go to education and early detection programs developed by Avon and national cancer organizations. (Call 800-for Avon for a representative near you).



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Night-table Reading



RuPaul (supermodel, recording artist):
The Dreyfus Affair: A Love Story,
by Peter Lefcourt (Random House).
"Interracial same-sex baseball love: bello.
It's not just about being gay.
It's about being human."

Illusions Magazine

LETTERS

FROM OUR READERS



Dear Barbie & Christine....I feel you must be thanked and congratulated for the improvements and changes to our Illusions Newsletter! You have really brought it out of the closet! The article on the Watson Gender Table was very interesting and challenging. I feel that I fit into group 3 with a couple of minor variations. "My Husband Wears My Clothes" available in the Club Library was very interesting. Your time and effort that goes into making Illusions go the way it does is greatly appreciated. Thanks. Keep up the good work. Bye for now.....Rita #99

Dear Barbie.. HI! I'm still alive and well in "Canada's model town"..ha.pun intended..well that's what the signs say on the hiway!. I've been keeping pretty busy at work, there is a special project happening here which I've been involved with. Its so special that my team has been video taped but its still not as much fun as being video taped on stage, lip syncing Taylor Danes "I'll be your shelter"! How's life treating you and Bryan. Are you going through any of the cold feet symptoms in reference to the big event coming next spring? Wish you two much happiness and nothing but the best that life has to offer. I'll be missing another Xmas Pot Luck Dinner again so I want to wish you and the rest of the gang a very merry Xmas. I miss you very much and say hi to everyone for me..Take care of yourself, much happiness...Love Ursula #41

Merry Christmas! Arden & I are looking forward to spending Xmas together after being apart these 14 months! Its hard to think its Xmas when people here in Texas are still mowing grass etc. With any luck at all we'll spend Xmas on the Gulf of Mexico suntanning! Arden seems to like Texas especially no snow.She literally gloats when someone from home mentions -31temps and we are mid-70's! She has tried to contact a couple of clubs but to date hasn't had much success. Guess she will keep trying. Hope this finds you both well as well as the other Illusion members! All the best in '94..Arden & Judy #143.

To Barbie & Christine...Best Wishes of the Season! I Really like the new look of the Illusions Magazine. Keep up the good work! Regards....Barbra #239.

Dear Bryan & Barbie, As we approach the end of my first year at Illusions and on behalf of myself and my alter ego Diane, I'd like to thank you (and the gals at Illusions) for giving Diane a life and freeing her from the confines of a dark and lonely closet. They say that life is made up of a series of different experiences and from the interactions with different people. Before I joined Illusions, Diane never really existed because in the closet nobody knows your name because theres nobody else in there with you. But Diane now has an identity and a whole new lease on life. She's met a lot of nice people, shared some interesting stories, fulfilled a couple of fantasies, had some different experiences and has also some strange ones and all these factors have come together to create a lifestyle which Diane has enjoyed immensely. Diane's received alot of very good advice and as a result I think that she has never done a better job of putting herself together that she does right now! She dresses better and with the occasional compliment that she receives she now has a self esteem that I wish her alter ego Dave had! In concluding Diane and I would like to wish everybody a happy New Year as Diane has just experienced. Thanks again.....XOXOXO Diane #176

To Barbie & Christine and all the Gals at Illusions.....May all the special pleasures of this Holiday Season live on in your memories! Love your friend Marcia #69.

Barbie..Thanks for all the sharing....having you as a friend has helped me be a better person, its nice to know you accept me as I am. I guess that's why I look forward so much to the times we spend together... just talking about anything at all. You make me feel good about life, even when it gets abit rough! Happy New Year.... Love Rhonda #88

January - February 1994

Illusions Centerfold.....

COLLEEN...got her name from a gal that she was really fascinated with and finds that the styles are the same. Colleen was born and raised in Edmonton and had an older sister. Her dad was a strict RCMP man. Colleen always figured that her mom must of known about her hobby as its tough to hide things around the house. Colleen started dressing quite young but tried to fight it off and on while growing up. She lived with a girl but when she found the clothes..she left. Instead of throwing out Colleens clothes, she decided to explore crossdressing further and joined Illusions! She found out about the club through the TSP Mag and went to her first meeting in Edmonton. She went to the first meeting with a boy moustache but the next meeting...Colleen was out! Colleen was excited to be part of the Edmonton Exec, and also a Princess! She helped model in a Fredericks Fashion Show and was very active up north. She moved down to Calgary and was still very active. Colleen says that she really enjoys her male role in life but its a wonderful fantasy to be female. It is very hard to "change" around but if there was a magic wand he would love to be a she! Colleen really likes both parts of her life and dresses quite abit. She considers herself a "Weekend TV"(and any chance in between!) Colleen enjoys getting up on a saturday morning and staying dressed all day long.



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A funny experience for Colleen happened one day with Princess Terry in Edmonton.. Terry lost some nailpolish in the car..so pulled over and got out to look for it. With just their legs out in view...some guys parked right behind them to check them out! Once they stood up and saw the guys Terry sprinted for their apartment leaving Colleen to walk around the car giving them a Colleen smile! They realized that we weren't what they thought we were!

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This area has been left intentionally blank due to privacy considerations.

Colleen.....

COLLEEN really enjoys her complete makeup room..a girls room! She can be made up and ready to go in about 45 minutes. That doesn't include the time needed for shaving her legs and chest though! Colleen is into the smart business style but can do the trashy look for fun if need be. She finds makeup fun and easy to do..a real veteran. She also has fun fiddling with her 5 wigs....Colleen finds it easier to put all the makeup on and her wig..then go back to the mirror to change and or perfect the look that she's after. COLLEEN really likes Lingerie..lots of it..and also has a fantasy for Victorian styled clothing. She would also like to get to a crossdressers convention sometime so she could enjoy being a girl all week long! COLLEEN gets out quite abit in public...to malls, restaurants and finds it to be the "Ultimate Rush"! She gives the strong advice of going with someone else for your adventures in public. Sometimes to go with a crossdresser (as a boy) works good as looking like a couple. You tend to blend in more and the man can stare down the stares! The biggest moment is your first time out..make sure you go with some friends. Remember you are an endangered species and people may see who you really are. Dont believe in the TV magic mirror!

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COLLEEN figures that you are what you are and you shouldn't be ashamed. There are plenty of crossdressers out there to reach out...we all have alot in common! You may feel that your makeup looks bad with your first attempts... but keep trying. We're all sisters and we are all willing to help others out!

"ITS A VERY COMPULSIVE PULL FOR ME....AND I TRY TO DO IT OFTEN!"

LOVE AND KISSES....COLLEEN

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Hi everyone, I hope that you all brought in the New Year well and that in 1994 we will see our club grow. With growth will come many new members and the opportunity to create new friendships.

A recent purchase made by your librarian is "NINE LIVES", the autobiography of Erica Rutherford. This book is published in P.E.I. by Ragweed Press.

For fifty years internationally respected artist Erica Rutherford, who was born a male, struggled with the conviction that she was the wrong gender. At the age of fifty she finally makes the decision to live her life as a woman.

from the library... *Ms. Stephanie Donaldson*

I found this one a real dry read but, still quite interesting. It may have held more interest had it been a real "Canadian" book. Still worth the read just to have a more open understanding of a transsexuals struggles and triumphs.

Well girls, I hope you enjoy the magazine and please don't forget to give Barbie, Christine, and Lisa some help this year. We need all the girls to make their contribution to ensure that we grow as a club. Please come out and show all your support for our magazine and "Illusions".

Bye for now, *Love Ms. Stephanie*

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REMEMBER

Remember when you thought YOU were the only one.
Remember when you were plagued with self doubt.
Remember how you searched for self justification.
Remember how you longed for someone to talk to.
Remember how you longed for somewhere safe to go.
Remember the hopeful thoughts when you heard about something called "Illusions".
Remember the fear and uncertainty as you set out to investigate.
Remember how hard it was to enter through the door.
Remember the fear of what was on the other side.
Remember how you just couldn't quite admit to why you were there.
Remember the relief of finally admitting to someone your innermost secret.
Remember how your revelation was greeted with acceptance.
Remember your amazement at how many others had travelled the same path.
Remember the anticipation you experienced prior to your first social.
Remember the fear again as you prepared to enter your first event dressed up.
Remember how the other "Illusion" members made you feel welcome.
Remember how you marvelled at how the more experienced members helped you.
Remember the tips and tricks they unselfishly gave to help you look better.
Remember the club events that were so exciting.
Remember the experienced members encouraging you to broaden your horizons.
Remember the excitement of travelling to an event outside the safety of the club.
Remember how going out anywhere dressed was an adventure.
Remember the guidance and support you received.
Remember the friendships you developed through "Illusions".
Remember **WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE!**
Remember the help you received.

Remember



January - February 1994

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Calling All Girls!

We are forming an Illusions Social Committee

Illusions is growing and we get requests for fun activities at our socials. This is great way for us to further enjoy our lifestyle and meet others. The social committee consists at the moment of Princess Lisa and she would like many others to help her out in the organizing and running of activities. What we could do is run a Las Vegas night, have dance lessons, movie night, make-up lessons, and a return of dress for pleasure. There is a load of activities we could think of, what's needed is participation. Our first activity could be for the February 12 social, maybe a Valentines dance? The fun at Illusions can only get better with your help. Please call the club and leave your name, Lisa will get ahold of you and soon we'll have our first meeting.

So Let's Have Fun!



FANTASTIC VOYAGE (cont'd from page 5)

"I was not a transvestite," she insists. "Transvestites are heterosexual men who get a thrill from wearing women's clothing. And I never considered myself a homosexual," says Rachel. "This boy-girl, male-female thing isn't always black-and-white. It's shades of grey. But if you were a boy and dressed in women's clothes, as I did, there was an assumption I was gay. I had to pass through there--the gay world--"to get where I was going. Gays didn't ask why your eyelashes were so long, I could be me. Homosexuals were my first friends. They considered me Their royalty--or their grandmother."

Homosexual men "were more interested in men who were men," says Rachel. "I was being asked out by so-called straight men who looked at me and saw a girl. But if I went to bed with them, it would be breaking the Illusion--like in *The Crying Game*. So I became asexual."

But not for ever. Back from Hollywood, Harlow worked as a model

and began the two-year preparation for the operation with weekly hormone shots and daily hormone pills. After she developed breasts, she never took hormones again. Most transsexuals spend a year in psychotherapy, Harlow got psychiatric clearance after one session.

In 1971, there were only a few places to have the operation, among them Casablanca and Yonkers. "I was petrified to go out of the country. My biggest fear was that I would die on the operating table and no one

would claim me." She made the trip to Yonkers alone. She shared a semi-private room with two other "girls." "One had pink hair and silicone implants every where. The other was a bald, middle-aged man who looked like Ernest Borgnine....I knew it wasn't going to be easy for me, but it was almost impossible for that homely man in the next bed."

The 2 1/2-hour sex-change operation was performed. "When I woke up, Dr. Granato was leaning over me saying, 'Rachel, Rachel, you are the most beautiful woman in the world.'"

Had she not had the sex-change, says Rachel, "I would have jumped out of a window. I could not have survived."

is, it works," she says, with a woman-of-the-world smile. "At the time, I didn't care whether it worked or not as long as I came out different than when I went in. I had been without sex my whole life. It wasn't a sexual thing. It was a mental thing. The rest--a satisfying sex life--is a happy adjunct that's come into play nicely."

The recovery was arduous. "For two weeks," she says, "I was bleeding. They pack you with

The only photo that remains of Rachel as a boy. She destroyed all the others after the operation, but her cousin salvaged this one.



"I had two choices. I could

live in misery for the rest of my

life or try to better my lot."

I was never one to say I was a freak of nature. Whatever the reason--psychological, physiological--it happened to me."

The particulars are not for the squeamish. "They remove the testicles and save the skin," Rachel says matter-of-factly. "They take out the core of the penis but leave the skin with the nerve endings to create the vagina. That's where you get the sensation. All I can tell you

gauze. I was numb down there for two years. I thought, 'So this is what I'm left with--nothing.' Then I woke up one day, and the numbness was gone." She adds impishly, "I said to myself, 'How very nice.'"

But does it look natural? "I've been told by one man, who had been married, that it is absolutely perfect," says Rachel.

Rachel's sex change was a major drawing card at her namesake disco, in Philadelphia's Society Hill, which opened in 1971.

(cont'd on page 38)

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"Stay on the phone ma'am!"

..... This is the purge line

Fiction by Cassandra

From the Illusions 'What If' file, a conversation from a crossdresser's purge-help line. Such a service could have saved some of us hundreds of dollars if it had been around. Let's look to the future, as the phone rings...

Purge Line. Hello, may I help you?

I called to tell you I'm going to do it.

I'm sorry, your going to do what?

I'm getting rid of the demon. I'm throwing it all away.

I take it your purging your wardrobe?

Yes, and I'm never going to wear women's clothing again. I've beat the demon in me this time.

Excuse me for saying this but, you wouldn't be calling the purge line if your mind was totally made up to throw your femme things away. You must have some doubts then.

.....It's just that I've done this too many times before and I always go back to buying more stuff again. I'm just so terribly ashamed of what I do you know, after I Well it doesn't matter.

Do you mean ...masturbate

(silence)

I didn't mean to embarrass you, it's just that we have many callers who feel the same way you do.

So!

Well let me explain. You see there can be a thin line between crossdressing and sex. Many crossdressers associate the feel and look of women's clothing as an outlet for their sexual desire of women. Some studies have suggested that crossdressers are over-attracted to the other sex and dressing makes them one step closer to intimacy with them. Mind you there are others who don't feel this way at all about crossdressing, so this may not be your case.

Well no, it sort of true about me. It's just the feeling I have after I ...you know...masturbate.

I hear you. I can feel the same way too. I can get too excited from dressing up sometimes and then after I masturbate, I feel so different.

Like a pervert!

Yeh, exactly. My feelings for dressing are nearly all gone after I do it, it's as if I become a new person: a macho guy. I would nearly tear the female clothes off me because I felt so dirty,

January - February 1994

then sometimes I had myself convinced that finally I was cured and now I could be a normal man. I bet that's how you feel right now eh?

Uh, huh.

You have to understand that crossdressing can't be cured by purging, nearly everyone who does starts all over again. You should try to enjoy who you are, being a crossdresser is not a bad thing to be.

It is after you climax!

Sure I know it feels awful, but let's put it this way. If you were to feel sexually excited all the time and had no way of releasing the tension you'd be all messed up. You might end up being dressed only in lingerie when you go to work or think of nothing but fantasy all day. The feeling you have is simply nature's way of telling you that sex is over. All animals get this after sex, it stops them from wearing out their partners. Think of masturbation as a way to set your mind straight. Of course you feel different at first but you level out soon.

But how do I stop feeling so bad afterward?

It's really up to you. I might suggest you do what I do after masturbation: Tell yourself that what you did was O.K., that you still are a crossdresser and a good person.

As a matter of fact, don't think your the only person who masturbates. I've read surveys that say as many as 90% of men do it, and all have different fantasy's. Remember, fantasy is not reality it's only in your head and your not hurting anyone with it.

It seems odd to me that I want to express myself femininity, yet I end up resorting to male sexual fun.

Well that all goes back to what I said about sexually identifying with women, you can't stop that. What you should try, is to express your female self without the sex, hold out if after you masturbate, the sex will be over and you can concentrate on the woman inside you. Clothing isn't everything. In your everyday life you can express your caring, nurturing side and hold off on your male biases. There's alot to explore in being a crossdresser, you have the best of both worlds you know!

That's true. O.K., I'll keep the clothes, thanks for your help, I appreciate it.

Your welcome, we hope to see you at an Illusions meeting sometime.

PEOPLE.....

Cross-dressing hubby looks better than I do

I filed for divorce after I found out my husband doesn't want to wear the pants in the family — he wants to wear dresses! After making that shocking charge, Peggy told Montel Williams why she felt double-crossed after discovering that her husband of three years had a cross-dressing secret.

Peggy: "About a year ago I found a footlocker full of women's clothing, makeup and jewelry that did not belong to me."

Montel: "And what was your first thought?"

Peggy: "He was cheating on me."

Montel: "And then you found out it was clothing that he himself wore?"

Peggy: "Oh yes... I didn't think I was going to end up with someone that wore clothes better than I did."

Montel: "But if you know he is a man and this is what he wants to do, and he says it to you, why not say it's O.K.?"

Peggy: "Because he didn't say it to me. I had to find out by myself in such a shocking manner, which devastated me... Had I known, I would not have married him."

Peggy filed for divorce. But she still loves her husband and is now considering a reconciliation.

tell us
what you
think!

IRMA KURTZ'S

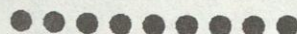
agony column

Q ■ I am becoming increasingly alarmed by my boyfriend's bizarre interest in cross-dressing. He has been living with me and my family for the last two months. The first time I noticed this behavior was when he put on my hot pink G-string bikini (both parts) and asked me if I would have sex that way. I just shook my head and ran out of the room. I was so upset and shocked that I isolated myself from him for the rest of the day. The second time was worse. I walked in on him unexpectedly in my mother's room, and he was dressed in her chiffon-and-lace nightie, with a stack of porno magazines surrounding him. I just shut the door and walked away—and he didn't try to follow me to explain himself. In fact, we've never spoken about it. Does his dressing up mean he's homosexual? What's going on here, and what can I do to stop it?

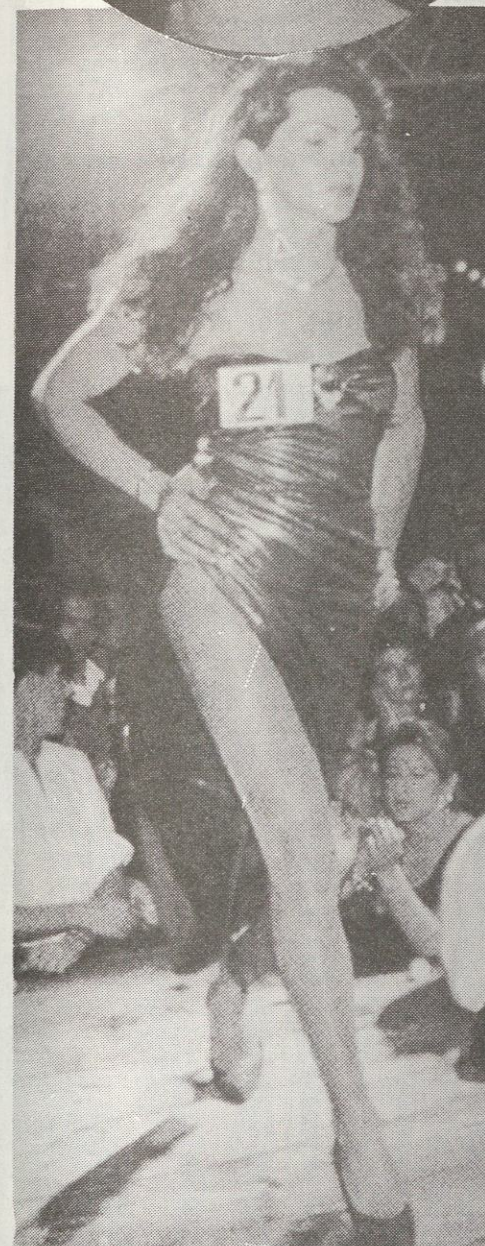
A. As a general rule, it doesn't pay to punish people for doing what they can't help doing. I'm not saying this to make you feel bad or in any way responsible for your boyfriend's behavior; it's just that, by isolating yourself from him and not talking about what you witnessed, you showed disapproval and anger—but not understanding. And understanding is what your boyfriend requires... because his sexual behavior is a *part* of him, and he is not doing it to anger you or make you worry. Many men find women's clothes, especially silky underwear, very sexy against their skin—we do too, don't we? Half the reason we wear slinky lingerie is because it makes *us* feel sexy. Some men feel the same way and so like to dress as women, head to toe. They are called transvestites and are not necessarily homosexual. On the contrary, many transvestites have happy and fulfilling relationships with women who understand their desires and even help satisfy them. Others dress up only when they are alone, and never tell their partners.

What's really going on here? You'll never know unless you break your silence. You must talk to your boyfriend calmly and let him tell you just how deeply he desires to feel women's clothes

next to his skin, and whether it is part of a greater desire to *be* a woman or merely an expression of transvestism. Once you know what his real sexual urges are, you have various choices you can face together. If he is unhappy or confused in his sexuality, he might want to enter professional therapy. But remember, therapy will not change his urges if they are a profound part of him; it will only make him happy and able to function within his own framework. But if he is quite content with his sexual preferences, it's up to you to see if you can include them in your sex life together, not all the time perhaps, but as part of your sexual repertoire. Why not fool around with him in the hot pink bikini? As long as that isn't the *only* way he wants to make love, what harm will it do? Perhaps, in exchange, you could come up with a little fantasy of your own to try out on him. Still, if you find his sexual behavior repellent, tedious, or demeaning, it is not your fault—no more than liking to wear women's underwear is *his* fault. You *might*, however, need to think about looking for a different partner.



Illusions Magazine



WOMEN WHO WERE BORN AS MEN
from the supermarket tabloids...

TAKE A VERY close look at these gorgeous gals. Believe it or not, every one of these head-turning blondes and eye-popping brunettes was born 100 percent male.

Now they're all transsexuals who gladly put on the makeup and slip into figure-hugging swimsuits to compete as perky pageant contestants.

They shamelessly strut their perfect breasts and beautiful bottoms as they sashay down the runway.

But don't get the wrong idea and head to the phone to report the shocking matter.

These curvy cuties aren't interested in competing against natural women for the Miss America crown.

Tacky title

They're amazing Italian she-males who each year go all out for the tacky title of Miss Transsexual.

This year's winner was Valentina, a leggy 25-year-old who, not too long ago, answered to the name Salvatore. Miss Transsexual 1993 is the grandson of a bishop and a high-ranking politician.

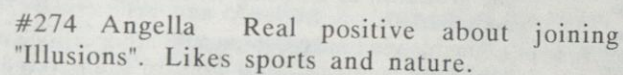
The blonde bimbo beat out 50 other equally-confusing contestants to capture the coveted crown.

Valentina, who swears the only major surgery he's had is a nose job, dedicated his-and-her title to all the world's transsexuals who've found happiness through sex-change surgery.

— JENNY LYNN



.....



#275 Karan Quiet sports fan who wants to enjoy his "femme" self with others.

#276 Amber Jones A novice TV looking for help from the mature members.

#277 Angelica Borderline crossdresser about to continue on.

#278 Sonya Dressing for as long as she can remember.

#279 Dani Hobbies include photography and hiking. CDing of course.

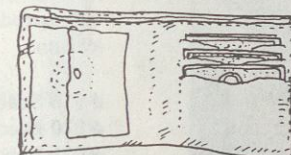
#280 Wendy Wyld Dressing since teens, perhaps a TS.

#281 Chantel Joins us from Winnipeg.

#282 Diane Just coming out of the closet and joining us from Edmonton.

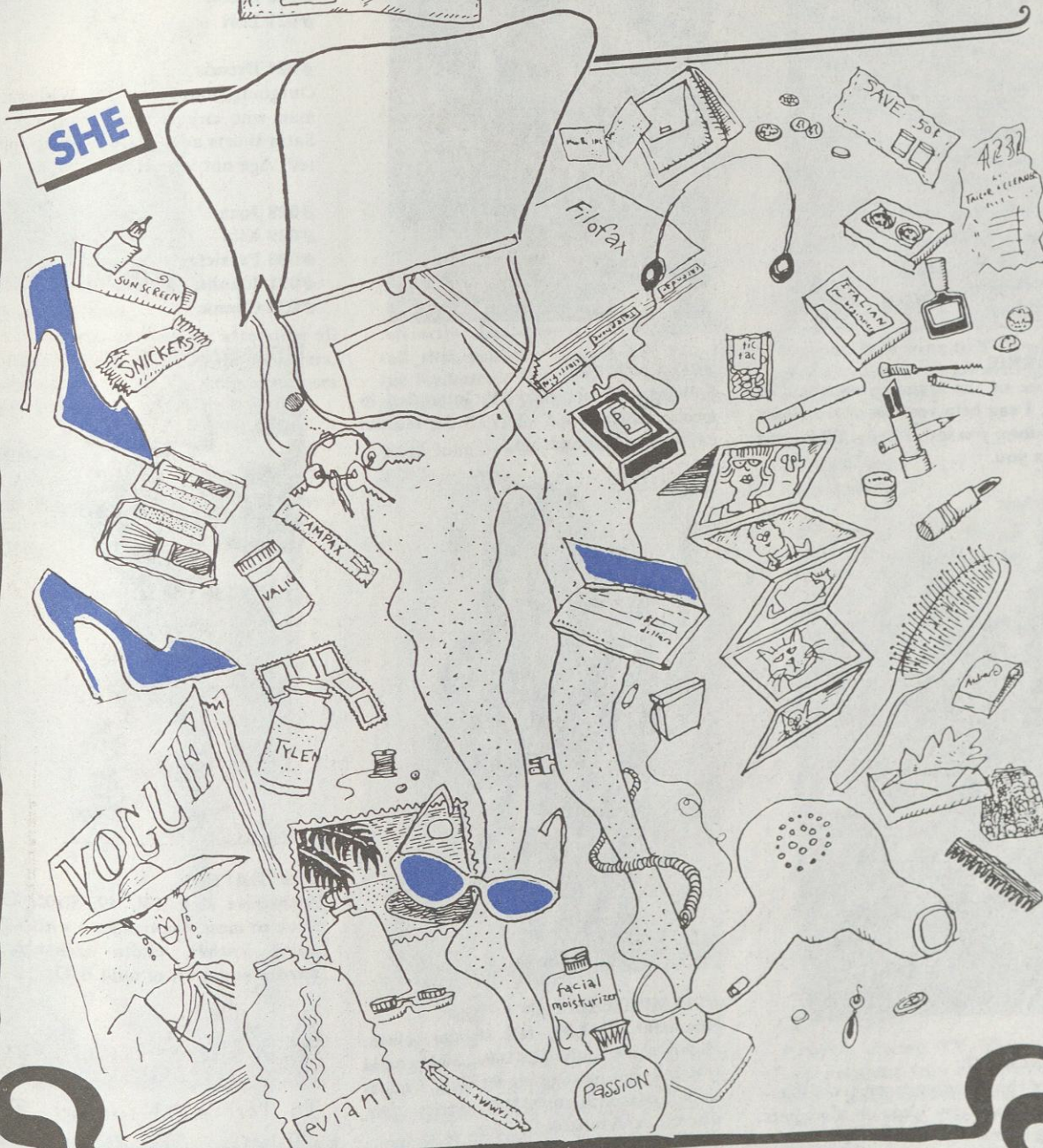
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#201 MARSHA
TV, 30ish, 46C-29-42, 6'2", 182lbs. Regular about town. Most favorite material "BLACKLEATHER". Illusions executive, member of ISCWR, Northern Chaps and stage performer. Write soon!

#204 Dixie
TV, Mid 40's, 6', 195 lbs. Hetero non-smoker. Dress' conservatively. Interested in all facets of "Femme-Tech". Will correspond with similar TV's. Owns Crossland Shoes.

This area has been left intentionally blank due to privacy considerations.

#210 COLLEEN
Illusions Princess, Hetero TV, Mid 30's. Interests; camping, fishing, outdoors. Wish to correspond with those interested in passability and with understanding females. Letter/ Photo gets mine.

#215 Terri
Tall, slim, dizzy, twisted sister, loves to party. Have passion for older, heavy men. Sexually submissive and into B&D fun.

#216 Mila

#218 Gwen
Bi TV, naughty but love to be taken control of. Love B&D and related passions. Will correspond with like minded. Possibly exchange pictures and videos.

#221 Heather

#222 Dana
TS from the west coast. Would like to make friends in Edmonton & Calgary. I'm musically inclined & attractive.

#232 Cathy
TV, 34, 6'1", 185 lbs. Shy novice but would like to correspond and perhaps meet people. Live in northern Alta. Occasionally travel to Edmonton.

#233 Johanne
#236 Sandra
#239 Barbra
#240 Geri
#242 Pauline
#243 Kathryn

#245 Randi
Tall, shy, Brunette, TS. 40, submissive, discreet, lonesome. Conservative dresser, pursuing passability. Enjoy creative arts, cooking, outdoors, and friendly gentlemen. Send letter/photo, Will travel.

#246 Dee Dee T.
#247 Randi
#250 Joanne

#253 Michele
Submissive T/V, 40, tall, slim, wishes to meet Dominate. Sensitive, clean, healthy and have genuine desire to explore fantasies. Love to have a good time.

#255 Melanie
#257 Melissa

#259 Jean
5'6", 155 Lbs, 44, curious TV (closeted). Would like correspondence with TV's. Love long painted fingernails, nylons, garters, sexy heels, especially painted toe nails. PLEASE WRITE!!

#260 Justine

263 Trisha
Bi/TV, 36, Would like to meet someone to teach me how to apply makeup.

264 Judy Wong
265 Shirley
266 Frieda
267 Sandra

268 Michelle
33, TV, Hetero, 5'9" / 157 lb. Love femininity, have enjoyed C/Ding but in the closet! Time to come out! Need support from sisters in the Northwest.

269 Barbara
Married Hetero TV, wishes to correspond and meet with other TV's to discuss various aspects of our lifestyle.

#270 Dagmar
#271 Jennifer
#272 Monica

#273 Lyla
Tall, Trim, Married TV, mid 40's. Interested in all aspects of femininity and passability. Wish to correspond with open and honest people of like interests.

#274 Angella
#275 Karan
#276 Amber Jones
#277 Angelica
#278 Sonya
#279 Dani
#280 Wendy Wyld
#281 Chantel
#282 Diane

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An Illusions Christmas

The Girls Join For Cheer and Goodwill

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"Well, I Guess I've Done My Best"
January - February 1994

"Everybody was grooving on me. There were lines around the block to see the freak in a woman's dress."

Harlow's notoriety was insignificant compared with that of her first beau, Jack Kelly, Princess Grace's brother. They met at her Philadelphia club. He knew I had had the operation. He told me he admired my strength."

"The first time Jack took me to his apartment, he asked me, 'What would you like to do?' Probably not what he had in mind. 'I told him I wanted to see the movies from Grace's wedding.' It was with Jack Kelly that Rachel eventually lost her virginity, such as it was. 'I was afraid it was going to hurt,' says Rachel. But she found the experience 'what it was for every girl---very emotional. I remember crying the whole time. That's when it really hit me: *Oh, my God, I've really done this.*' But the affair came to an end after two years; the couple was getting too much notice, to Grace's dismay.

After her namesake club closed in the late 70s, Harlow found love twice in other clubs. In New Jersey she met a man she calls her true love, "He was my ideal. Tall, good-looking, blonde, blue eyes," says Rachel. "He knew all about me. I never lied." She was so famous, she couldn't lie. "Those transsexuals who do lie usually regret it," says Rachel. "They go with a man, and when the man finds out, he feels his masculinity has been usurped." Rachel says she knows of transsexuals who have been beaten up--and even killed--for not telling the truth. "Being a transsexual is something you constantly have to deal with. It can never be

behind you." Rachel's love affair with the contractor lasted four years.

Rachel was celebrating her birthday at a trendy Philadelphia bar with a girlfriend when two men sent over a bottle of champagne. "I'll take the blonde," said Frenchman Gerard Billebault. Within a year he and Rachel were married. "My husband treated me like a piece of rare porcelain," says Rachel. He knew I was once a boy. He loved me because of who I was, not in spite of it."



For most of their ten years together, Rachel was "just a housewife." But in 1988 they opened another Harlow's--this one a white piano supper club. Rachel was hostess. "When it wasn't the success I wanted it to be, I had breakdown," says Rachel. She took to her bed for several months and eventually separated from her husband.

In 1991, Rachel sold her furniture; packed her Robert Vargas gowns, her collection of falls, the jewelry from her lovers, and her scrapbooks (minus the pictures of herself as a boy--those she had torn up); and moved to San Francisco's Nob Hill to start over. She got a job selling Lancombe cosmetics

at a department store. Contrary to everything she preaches, she told none of her new friends about her past. During her year there, she never set foot in the Castro, the gay district that welcomed her in 1969 as the star of *The Queen*.

Rachel moved back to South Philadelphia recently to help care for her widowed mother. Rachel likes to tell how once, postoperation, she was visiting her mother and complained of stomach cramps. "My mother said, 'Is it your time of the month?'"

"I said, 'Mom, that's my joke.' 'But you're my daughter,' she said."

When producer Lewis Allen told Rachel he was reviving *The Queen*, she thought of a line from *The Godfather Part III*: "They're pulling me back in." But she finds herself enjoying the attention and wishing she had appreciated it more the first time.

Her claim to fame use to be passing as a woman. Now she survives as a woman and helps others follow in her path. "I'm not asking for converts, but I believe I'm here to tell my story," she says. "It's not a transsexual story. It's a life story."

While Rachel was in New York City recently, Allen took her to a drag review at a Manhattan cabaret. After the show, risking sounding like Sally Jesse Raphael, I asked Rachel how it felt to attend a drag show. Did she feel like an expatriate going back home? One of the boys?

"Not at all," said Rachel. "I found the show amusing. But a lot of it was lost on me. There is no sense that that's where I was---ever I felt like a tourist. I felt like you." ●

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January - February 1994

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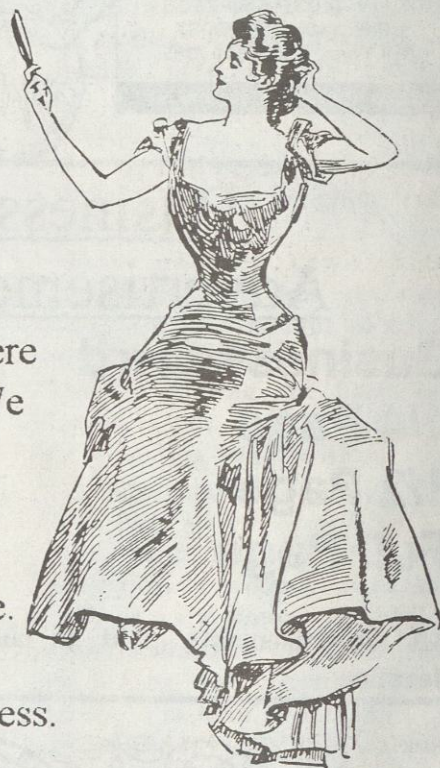
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